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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1993

INSIDE THIS WEEK

National page A3

UNCF, S. Africa unveil
\$21.9 million pact

Lifestyle page B1

Caribbean carnival
hosted at waterfront

ARTZ page B4

Lena Horne sings softly
of Stormy Weather

NEWS BRIEFS

Whitman takes
over city's
financial problems

CAMDEN—Governor Whitman recently took over the reins in Camden when New Jersey's Local Finance board approved her plan to appoint a team to monitor all the money the city spends. The move was prompted by Camden's \$15 million budget deficit, the lowest per-capita income and an unemployment rate which is nearly triple the state's average. Camden is cited as New Jersey's poorest city.

The unprecedented take-over, which was voted on last week, was approved in less than five minutes and received no vocal opposition or support from the voters. The resolution allows Whitman to appoint a seven-member review board who will approve the city's budgets, municipal labor contracts and spending.

Women's group
fights return of
Tyson's license

LAS VEGAS, NV — The local chapter of the National Organization for Women is organizing a campaign to stop boxer Mike Tyson from regaining his Nevada boxing license. Tyson is eligible to apply for his license next month. The organization is asking the commission not to give Tyson back the license. "If Tyson is denied, he will be unable to fight anywhere in the United States."

NAACP urges
boycott of hotel
chains

BALTIMORE (AP) — The NAACP urged people to boycott several national hotel chains that the civil rights group says have poor track records in minority hiring and business development.

In a survey released recently, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ranked Best Western International Inc. and Adam's Mark Hotels at the bottom of a 14-chain list, earning grades of D, D and D-, respectively.

"Hotels that receive a D will not receive NAACP business dollars," said Kwesi Mfume, president of the Baltimore-based organization. The NAACP increased the Adam's Mark Hotels and Resorts chain's rating from after the initial report from a D to a C-, the same grade it earned a year ago, after getting a clarification of its corporate structure and its marketing and advertising coordinator to NAACP economic development coordinator Linda Hatibovic.

The NAACP ranked hotel chains in five areas: the percentage of black employees, franchise owners and vendors, the percentage of advertising dollars going to minority media, and the percentage of donations going to black charities. The rankings were based on information the chains themselves supplied.

Cendant Corp., the parent company of Days Inn, Howard Johnson and Travelodge, was at the top of the list with a B rating, followed by Promus Hotel Corp., the parent company of Doubletree, Embassy and Hampton, with a B-, and Marriott International Inc., Westin and Choice received grades of C; Holiday Inn, Wyndham, Radisson and Hilton earned C-; and Hyatt and ITT Sheraton were given C-.

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Get the news that's relevant to you, your family and your community's progress.

Race advisory board rep says racial 'killings' not new

By Tom Sharp
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The chairman of President Clinton's advisory board on race relations says the dragging death of James Byrd in east Texas last month was "nothing new."

John Hope Franklin said the June 7 killing of James Byrd Jr. was unusual only in its level of cruelty.

Franklin, a history professor at Duke University, was keynote speaker recently at the 32nd Race Relations Institute at Fisk University.

In an interview later, Franklin said Byrd's killing lends no more urgency to the advisory board's task "than the burning of black churches in previous years."

"I don't want to sound calloused, but that's nothing new," he said. "It was just more barbaric. It adds the same type of urgency to our problem that other acts of barbarism have."

Franklin said subtle forms of racism can be just as devastating as the vicious killing of Byrd. He told the story of a black high school student who worked for weeks on a paper for class and submitted it to his white teacher.

"It was a first-class paper. You know what

he said? 'Who wrote this paper for you?' He was destroyed completely by a casual comment by an insensitive teacher," Franklin said.

Franklin said the president's advisory board on race expects to present Clinton with a final report this September. He hopes some form of the board will become permanent in the White House.

"We know we can't repair in a year the damage that's been done persistently, consistently and energetically for some 350 years," he said. However, Franklin disagreed with reports saying the advisory board has so far just talked

a lot and done little.

"We've taken action every month of our (one-year) existence, and the president has acted on every one of our requests," he said.

Franklin cited increases in funding for enforcement of civil rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission laws, lawsuits charging violation of federal equal housing laws, and efforts to equalize funding for black farmers.

He said the board expects to meet twice more to discuss the racial aspects of the criminal justice system, and of health care, before sending its final report to the president.

Racial tensions makes its way to Jersey towns



Walnut Street in Elizabeth (shown at right) is the location where race-related fires were placed on residents' lawns and private property. Donald Nelson, O. Jackson (l-r) and B.C. (standing) are on the porch of a house where a fire was placed on the front door.

By Sonya Kimble-Elis

Acts of racism have been springing up across the country, and the state of New Jersey is no exception. Most recently, a four-block radius of Walnut Street in Elizabeth was the site where race-related fires were lit on lawns and

placed on residents' lawns and private property.

Law officials said the fires were lit on lawns and

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Three whites indicted in James Byrd murder

JASPER, Texas (AP) — Three white men were indicted on capital murder charges last week in the killing of James Byrd, the black man who was chained to a pickup truck and dragged to his death.

Two separate indictments, issued by a Jasper County grand jury, accuse the three suspects of kidnapping and killing Byrd on June 7 on a rural East Texas road.

Named in one indictment are John Williams, King, 23, of Jasper and Lawrence Russell Brewer, 31, of Sulphur Springs. A second indictment names Shawn Allen Berry, 23, of Jasper.

The suspects remain jailed

without bond in what authorities call a racially motivated crime. All three have prison records, and authorities have said at least two were members of a racist prison gang. Racist literature also was seized from their homes.

There will be no arraignment hearing for the three. The earliest possible trial date is in January, said Jasper County Sheriff Bill Rowles.

If convicted, the suspects could face the death penalty. In addition to any state charges, federal authorities are considering federal hate crimes charges against the trio, which could make them eligible for the death penalty.

Mutual fund aimed at black customers

By Peter Alan Harper
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Obstacles abound for a new mutual fund that is courting black social, political and economic organizations.

The Liberty Freedom Fund, launched recently by a New Orleans black-owned bank, has already spent time seeking investors in black organizations. Backers said they have \$10 million in commitments and forecasted they would grow to a \$100 million fund within a year.

The fund's originator, Liberty Bank and Trust Co., a regionally acclaimed bank known for lending to first-time homeowners, also claimed it's the first black bank to launch a mutual fund. But banks big and small have no successful record in starting and maintaining mutual funds.

Even worse, blacks earning at least \$50,000 are far less prepared for retirement and are less wealthy than their white counterparts because they have negative attitudes about investing, according to a survey released in April by Anel Mutual Funds and Charles Schwab & Co.

There will be educating new investors on how to leverage their income — and hopefully use it as an economic tool for economic growth

in our communities," said Liberty bank's president and creator of the fund, Al McDonald Jr.

But some worried that the fund must still produce good results in order to compete with the thousands of other mutual funds that are available to investors.

"In the short term, I'm sure they'll generate a lot of interest and support," said Andrew Guillette, a financial services consultant and director of research at Cerrulli Associates in Boston.

The fund will invest in the country's largest corporations, such as Microsoft. That also would provide the fund with shareholder leverage should issues arise concerning black employees or other issues relevant to black Americans.

Even before the fund's launch, McDonald and other principals went after African-Americans assertively, pushing their way into black fraternities, sororities, churches and national organizations.

Aside from those targeted groups, the fund seeks allocations from churches, agencies and retirement and pension funds. In New Orleans, the city retirement board is considering making a \$5 million dollar commitment.

Jury convicts killer in Ennis Cosby trial

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — No one picked Mark Mathabaze out of a police lineup. His fingerprints were nowhere to be found at the murder scene. Only a single hair tied him to the gun that killed Bill Cosby's only son.

It was his own words — in jailhouse letters and in a taped phone conversation with a police informant — that persuaded jurors to convict Mathabaze of killing Ennis Cosby on a dark highway while he stopped to change a flat tire last year.

Cosby's family wept and hugged each other as the verdicts were read. Mathabaze, a 19-year-old, was charged with first-degree murder.

Deliberations. The actor and comedian, who had avoided most of the trial, was not in the courtroom.

The whole trial was open and shut, or at least close to that, "said juror Joseph Burnett Vagner, 78. "In those letters he convinced himself."

Mathabaze, a 19-year-old Ukrainian immigrant, stared stone-faced at the jury as he was found guilty of murder in commission of an attempted robbery.

He was found guilty of two special circumstance allegations: attempting to rob Cosby and using a

firearm in the commission of attempted robbery.

The jury's finding on all counts automatically mandated a life prison term with no possibility of parole at his 21st birthday. Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty, presumably because of the defendant's age.

Cosby had no comment. "The Cosby family is satisfied with the judicial process that has led to this conviction," Cosby spokesman David Brokaw said after the verdict.

However, Ennis Cosby's mother, Camille, wrote in an article published last week in *USA Today* that she did not want to hate black people through racism and prejudice. "Uninformed and eternalized in America's institutions, media and myriad entities."

"I believe America taught our son's killer to hate African-Americans. Presumably, Markabaze did not learn to hate black people in his native country, the Ukraine, where the hate against blacks was near zero," Mrs. Cosby wrote.

Cosby's spokesman said today: "There are no further plans by anybody from the Cosby family to say anything in the future (about the case)."

Family suspects foul play in death of Abiola

By Gilbert Da Costa
Associated Press Writer

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's military ruler dissolved his cabinet but left the junta intact, as riots rocked Nigerian cities after the death of the country's top political prisoner. At least 10 people were reported killed.

Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar had inherited the cabinet — a mix of civilian and military advisers — from his predecessor, dictator Gen. Sani Abacha, who died last month. Abubakar made no changes to the Provisional Ruling Council, the core of the junta.

The move came one day after Moshod Abiola, the country's first president, died suddenly becoming ill. His family has refused to accept the official line that he died of a heart attack.

Grief and anger swept across this West African nation, Africa's

most populous, as news spread of Abiola's death.

In Lagos, thousands of youths and students staged tumultuous demonstrations along busy streets, setting fires on fire and throwing stones. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowds. The rioting appeared to be waning by mid-afternoon. Schools were closed in Lagos state because of the violence.

Rioting also was reported in Abiola's hometown of Abeokuta, 45 miles north of Lagos. Students in the southern university town of Ibadan also staged protests.

Col. Mohammed Marwa, the popular military administrator of Lagos state, appealed for calm in a radio broadcast. "Violence will not profit anyone," he said. "Only God knows why he has taken Abiola away at this crucial period of national reconciliation."

Abiola, who was reportedly to be released soon from four years of imprisonment, took ill during a

meeting with members of a U.S. delegation led by Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering.

"Chief Abiola started talking with Undersecretary Pickering when he started feeling uncomfortable," said Jim Callahan, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria. "He was clearly in distress."

Before he began coughing and wheezing, Abiola had been drinking tea and chatting with Pickering, Callahan said in a telephone interview.

After becoming ill, the 60-year-old Abiola was rushed to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The government said he had died of a heart attack and promised a full autopsy.

The U.S. State Department said there was no reason to suspect foul play. Abiola's family had repeatedly warned his health had been failing for years in detention under harsh conditions, but cast doubt on the official explanation of his death.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

CRANFORD—Union County College offers a non-credit course on "Microsoft Office 97—Word 97" - Part 3, from 7:10 to 9:10 p.m. 908-709-7600

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "MS Access 97 Using Windows 95 Combo Class" from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

NEWARK—A black book series - part II will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. from at Newark Public Library. There will be a book signing by author, Sam Fire. 973-733-3748

THURSDAY, JULY 16

NEWARK—The Greater Newark Conservancy is having a City Gardens contest at The City of Newark. For more info, call 973-642-4646.

PLAINFIELD—Art instructor Lorenzo Lynch is holding creative arts classes from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center. 908-753-3505.

PLAINFIELD—Cary Palmer from the Plainfield Signal Division will speak and answer your questions 10 a.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center. Transportation can be provided. 908-753-3505.

MONTCLAIR—The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Montclair Municipal Building from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, identification cards, veterans licenses, and filing of physicians licenses. No pictures available, you must provide your own. 201-621-4915.

IRVINGTON—The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Irvington Town Hall from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, identification cards, veterans licenses, and filing of physicians licenses. No pictures available, you must provide your own. 201-621-4915.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

EDISON—Citron Institute will be holding an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school, 1527 Oak Tree Road.

JERSEY CITY—The 1998 E.R.A.C.E. Tour / N.Y. Metro Festival will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Liberty State Park. 973-684-8700.

GLASSBORO—The 1998 annual Artist/Teacher Institute (ATI) will be held through July 26th at Rowan University. 1-800-2-ARTS-99.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

HANMONG—An environmental program for teens grades 8 - 12 will be held through July 24th in Warren County. For more info, call 908-475-6502.

TBS—TBS Superstation will televise 45 hours of exclusive prime-time Goodwill Games competition coverage, through August 2nd, each night from 8:05 to 11:05 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 20

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center has announced a vacation trip to the Paramount Hotel in the Catskill Mountains of N.Y. through the 24th. For more details, call 908-753-3505.

JERSEY CITY—The Women's Center of NJ City University will hold a program on "Legal Education Night" from 6 to 8 p.m. 201-200-3189.

LIVINGSTON—The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Livingston Town Hall from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, identification cards, veterans licenses, and filing of physicians licenses. No pictures available, you must provide your own. 201-621-4915.

CRANFORD—Union County College offers tennis instruction for beginners through August 17th. 908-709-7600.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

CALDWELL—Caldwell College will provide an Adult Open House from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre. 973-228-4424, ext. 285.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

PRINCETON—Free airport tours will be conducted every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. through August at the Princeton Airport. 609-921-3100.

MONDAY, JULY 27

SCOTCH PLAINS—The Arc of Union County Golf Outing celebrates 10th year with a day of fun and sun on the links of Shacksonn Golf and Country Club. 908-754-7826.

Send events to: CN Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or FAX to: 908-753-1036

Kraft Foods, Inc., Essence pay tribute to moms



NEW YORK—Kraft Foods, Inc. and ESSENCE magazine, in conjunction with the 1998 Essence Awards, presented "A Tribute to Moms," at the Lackawanna Mall in Montclair recently. Pictured from left: Kelly Blackmon beside her mother, UPN 9 News anchorwoman Brenda Blackmon, ESSENCE contributing writer Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, and ESSENCE corporate marketing services and special projects director and president of RK Productions Karen Thomas, with her daughter, Erica.

Kevis proposes to Tomeka over NJPAC's sound system



NEWARK—Kevis Davis, 24, of East Orange proposed to Tomeka Goggins of East Orange over NJPAC's sound system during the musical "Annie." Production people at NJPAC delivered his proposal over the sound system at intermission. "Tomeka, Kevis would like to spend the rest of his life with you if you'll have him."

"Tomeka has accepted," came the announcement moments later to a roar of approval from the audience.

Kevis proposed to Tomeka on her birthday. Attending the performance was a gift from Kevis. She didn't have to wait until "Tomorrow" for the "sun to come out."

Pictured left to right: Kevis Davis and Tomeka Goggins.

At left, the happy couple: Kevis and Tomeka.

City News is glad to highlight our community people every week.

Send your photos and information to: City News People, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Three graduate from A. Harry Moore High School



JERSEY CITY—Gifford Singley, at right, of East Orange and John Angel of Union City were among three students who graduated from the secondary program of A. Harry Moore High School in Jersey City at recent commencement ceremonies. Mr. Singley, who received The Jeffrey A. Pasqua Foundation Award and The James Williams Memorial Award, and Mr. Angel, who received The American Legion Award and The James Patrick Starla Memorial Award, were congratulated by commencement speaker Gloria Boesman of Orange, interim dean of The New Jersey City University (formerly Jersey City State College) School of Professional Studies and Education, and Dennis Paporello of Martinsville, principal of the School. George Sheen of Newark also graduated and received The Thomas C. Wilczewski Vocational Award. The A. Harry Moore School is administered by New Jersey City University.

Hats off to the grads!



CHESTER—Devereux Deerhaven in Chester, the only school and residential treatment center in the state exclusively for troubled girls and young women, recently staged a festive graduation ceremony boasting girls completing eighth grade and high school. Special guest speaker Yvonne M. Shepard, a vice president of AT&T, traced her own rise from humble origins in Puerto Rico and urged the graduates to set high goals for themselves and strive toward them. Performance artist Gary Edison gave a spirited rendition of three Langston Hughes poems as part of the commencement exercises. Besides being honored for their academic achievements, the girls were cited for overcoming a number of obstacles and hardships that had marred their early years.

Tangle McClinton of Newark, left, receives congratulations on her graduation from Devereux Deerhaven from commencement guest speaker Yvonne M. Shepard.

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NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT HILLCREST VILLAGE APARTMENTS AND LEXINGTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS

On April 8, 1998, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey entered an order resolving a lawsuit brought by the United States Department of Justice against the owners, managers and rental agents of Hillcrest Village Apartments and Lexington Village Apartments in Clark, New Jersey. The lawsuit alleged that the defendants had discriminated against black persons who sought rental housing there. Under this order, you may be entitled to receive monetary relief if you asked about or applied for renting, or rented, an apartment at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments and:

1. You were denied an opportunity to live there because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you or
2. You were falsely told that no apartments were available because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you; or
3. You were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race or color in connection with your occupancy at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments or your attempt to rent a unit there.

If you believe you were discriminated against because of race or color at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments, or if you have any information about persons who may have been discriminated against there on the basis of race or color, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
P.O. Box 65998
Washington, D.C. 20035-5998

NOTE: You must call or write no later than ninety (90) days from August 8, 1998.

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THE WORLD BRIEFS

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATES DEATH OF BLACKS

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department will investigate the shooting deaths of two black men by Greenville County sheriff's deputies.

FBI agents will review the April 29 shooting death of Terrence Sellers during a traffic stop in Taylors and the June 19 death of Chinese Tao Hashim during a SWAT raid on a Greer home, according to a letter written to the local branch of the NAACP.

Civil rights advocates and the families of the two men have pressed the Justice Department to investigate because of growing distrust of law enforcement by the black community and concern that state authorities have not adequately investigated the use of deadly force.

"A thorough job has already been done on the cases, but if the Justice Department wants to investigate, we will cooperate with them fully," said spokesman Sgt. Lee Owens.

SHAQ, REEBOK DECIDE TO CALL IT QUITS

BOSTON (AP) — After six years of hawking Reebok basketball shoes, Shaquille O'Neal is calling it quits.

The Los Angeles Lakers center signed a contract six years ago to endorse the Reebok brand, but the deal ended recently after both parties agreed to dissolve the relationship, according to Reebok spokesman Dave Fogelson.

The company will continue using star athletes to endorse its products, but Fogelson said "the message is about the product, and what the product brings the athlete."

O'Neal's agent, Leonard Armatto, said he expects to announce soon another footwear and apparel deal for O'Neal. Armatto said that O'Neal will take this opportunity to develop a "whole new direction."

NAACP SURVEY TRACKS TRAFFIC STOPS OF BLACKS

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A survey of police behavior that began with the fatal shooting of a black New Haven man by a white police officer is being expanded around the state.

This summer, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will head a statewide reporting program called "Operation Blind Justice" to track how often police pull over minority drivers and how often minority drivers are treated. The NAACP is trying to determine how widespread "profiling" is the practice of scrutinizing drivers who do not look as if they fit in a neighborhood. Black motorists have long said the practice unfairly targets them. Roger Vann, president of Connecticut's NAACP, plans to distribute surveys to 1,500 drivers of all races from Fairfield County to the Massachusetts border by the end of the summer.

MANDELA REUNITED WITH WOMAN WHO FOUGHT APARTHEID

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Forty years after he played the overbearing white rule while drinking tea in her house, President Nelson Mandela was reunited recently with 96-year-old Augusta Lollan. "She may not have hit the headlines, but she was one of the persons in those most difficult days who... was in the forefront," said Mandela, draping an arm over Lollan's stopped shoulders.

The reunion underscored the fact that the African National Congress activists who fought apartheid through civil disobedience and guerrilla tactics are retiring or dying, passing the mantle to a younger generation.

Mandela, 79, is retiring and will likely be succeeded by 56-year-old Deputy President Thabo Mbeki after next year's elections.

Mandela and other ANC militants, including Lollan's son Stanley, had planned ANC policies and actions in her home in Soweto, the sprawling black township near Johannesburg. Police often invaded her

Colin Powell declines Truman Award

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Golf star general Colin Powell has turned down a nomination for the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award for the third time, saying he will not have time next year for ceremonies honoring the president who integrated the armed forces.

The award, in its 47th year, has recognized such people as Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren and Arthur Schlesinger Jr. It is given by a group initially formed by friends of the late president from Independence and is awarded at an annual luncheon.

Ceremonies are held in May around Truman's birthday. Will Powell be invited again? "No, this will be the last year," Margaret MacDonald, executive director of the foundation that decides on the awards, said recently. This will be the last time. Obviously, there could

be other reasons why he doesn't come.

Mrs. MacDonald added, "We dropped it at that, and we're ready to go on."

Mrs. MacDonald read from a letter written by Powell this month, saying he was just starting to prepare his remarks for a speech he is to give at the Truman Library in July. "My schedule is overwhelmed," Mrs. MacDonald read.

Powell's speech in Independence will mark a 50th anniversary commemoration of Truman's order to integrate the armed forces.

Mrs. MacDonald said there was one year that the foundation had invited seven people to accept the award, and all but one couldn't make it.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright, who had attended this year's award luncheon, wrote to

the foundation, asking why it had never chosen a minority for the award. Wright, in western Missouri, had pointed out after this year's ceremony honoring author Tom Clancy and retired Gen. Fredrick M. Franks that a black or a Hispanic had never been honored.

Truman was the president who integrated the armed forces," said Wright, a white man who has been on the bench in Kansas City for many years. Every year, the (Truman Award honoree) gets up and talks about what a great thing Truman did, but they have never had anybody who profited from that.

Philip Psaltis, foundation president, said the lack of black honorees has not been intentional.

He said the group is trying to contact Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first Black Air Force general, for the 1999 award.



Gen. Colin Powell

Black Caucus obtains \$30 million for black farmers

WASHINGTON — Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), hailed the passage of the House of Representatives' Agriculture Appropriations bill, H.R. 4101, which includes provisions to work the state of limitations for certain discrimination claims filed by black farmers.

The CBC has achieved the first part of a major victory to close this ugly chapter of discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) against black farmers, who have endured decades of discrimination. The Agriculture Appropriations bill includes approximately \$30 million to where there is a determination of discrimination," stated Rep. Waters.

Many black farmers filed discrimination claims against the USDA from 1983 to 1996. Despite believing that their claims were being processed by the USDA, the black farmer claims languished, languished because the USDA, under the Reagan-Bush Administration, had severely dismantled the division responsible for handling the claims. The Department of Justice (DOJ) now argues that the claims are barred by the statute of limitations because the farmers did not file a court action within two years of filing their administrative complaints.

For the past two years, the CBC has held hearings, participated in "listening sessions" around the country, joined with black farmers as well as allies, facilitated a meeting between the President and the black farmers, worked with the attorneys representing black farmers and negotiated the USDA's administrative complaint process for black farmers.

"Despite this victory, the statute of limitations provisions still must pass the Senate and must be signed into law by the President," added



Cong. Maxine Waters

Rep. Waters. "There still is more work to be done. The farmers will have their day in court in a class action lawsuit on February 1, 1999. There also may be other farmers who have individual constituent complaints that have not been dealt with by the USDA. The CBC will continue to assist and fight for the rights of black farmers," vowed Rep. Waters.

Rep. Waters also specially thanked CBC Members Rep. John Conyers, Rep. Edolpho Towns, Rep. Eva Clayton, Rep. Thad Cochran, Rep. Jim Clyburn, Rep. Earl Hilliard, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, Rep. Bobby Scott, and Rep. Bennie Thompson — who voice support and fight to ensure justice for black farmers.

Congress fails on civil rights issues

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NAACP says the Republican-led Congress is doing poorly on civil rights issues and is urging its members to vote in November against lawmakers who defied the organization's position on affirmative action and other legislative proposals.

We are calling for the defeat of people who have failed in this report," Kwesi Mune, president of the NAACP, said at a Capitol news conference Wednesday to release the group's report card on the 105th Congress. On a scale of 0 to 100, the entire Congress scored 51. Republicans earned an average score of 18 and Democrats received an 87.

A slim majority of House and Senate members, 35 percent, earned failing scores. Less than a third, 26 percent, received top grades. Mune said. Spokesmen for Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., declined to comment.

Mune said the Baltimore-based civil rights organization reviewed 10 votes by the Senate and a dozen in the House that covered six categories — confirmation,

affirmative action, budget and finance, the census, juvenile justice and voter empowerment — to compile grades.

In the Senate, the NAACP looked at votes to confirm Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, adopt a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and kill an anti-gay sodomy law.

Among the House votes were passage of a juvenile crime bill to try more violent teens as adults and another to spend \$7 million to send poor District of Columbia pupils to private schools. It also reviewed votes on amendments to eliminate affirmative action programs in the Transportation Department and in federally supported higher education.

The NAACP opposed all of these votes. After tabulating each member's individual score on these important votes, it is clear that the majority of the 105th Congress is guilty of non-performance on these issues — and is in default," said Mune, a former Democratic representative from Maryland. The NAACP's 1,700 branches will distribute the report cards nationwide, he said.

UNCF, South Africa unveil \$21.9 million agreement

WASHINGTON — The United Negro College Fund recently announced in a press conference on Capitol Hill a historic \$21.9 million contractual agreement, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, to strengthen curriculum, administration, student leadership, research and financial development for South Africa's 15 Historically Disadvantaged Universities and Faculties (HDUs).

William H. Gray III, President and CEO, United Negro College Fund was joined in the historic announcement by Ambassador Harry C. Babitt, Deputy Administrator, USAID; South African Ambassador Franklin Sonn; Senator Charles Robb (Va.), Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Dr. Earl S. Richardson, Chairman, President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

UNCF, in intense competition, won the USAID contract last month to strengthen the institutional capacity of the HDUs. The Tertiary Education

Linkages Project (TELP), as the contract is known, will also link American universities to the disadvantaged South African institutions.

Gray, the author of the 1985-86 Anti-apartheid Act, said this agreement is another step toward righting the wrongs of the past government's oppressive system.

"This is truly a unique and historic opportunity for UNCF and for me personally because of my past involvement with U.S. foreign policy," said Gray.

This contract will also give UNCF an international presence in higher education," Gray added.

UNCF will work with South Africa's HDUs in the five focus areas, and will promote linkages between South African and U.S. institutions of higher education.

Selected by a panel with majority representation from South Africa's HDUs, UNCF promises an exciting new phase of TELP's support for South Africa's historically disadvantaged universities and technicians.

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ELTON JOHN A Rigor, But Worth

A new look at a new DVFS

The \$20 million initiative to revamp the Department of Youth and Family Services is a much needed one for the quality of life for the state's at-risk children. Under this plan, a minimum of 100 additional case workers will be added to the department to move children into permanent homes in a faster and more efficient manner. The three-year strategic plan recently unveiled by Acting Human Services Commissioner Michelle Gohl plans changes in six areas, among them the expedition of permanency for children in care and improved case assessment and planning.

Two points of note in this new initiative are plans for increased training for both case workers and foster parents. A one-year period of training is now required for all entry-level case workers. Although the effectiveness of a person in this type of position wouldn't be maximized in a 12-month period, the additional guidance by the seasoned professionals goes a long way to helping the novice get up to speed.

Abolish the new plan, foster homes will be certified and foster parents must be re-certified yearly. This places a more effective scrutiny on who will care for children in need. The training program will be doubled and will include mandatory follow-up training.

At this point it is up to all those concerned to make sure there is competent follow-through with these plans. Effective change comes from without as well as within. The changes now being developed in DVFS are sorely needed to protect the most vulnerable individuals in our state.

The myths of 'Gone With The Wind'

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

I was surprised that "Citizen Kane," "The Godfather," and "Casablanca" placed higher than "Gone With The Wind" (GWTW) on the American Film Institute's recent list of the 100 greatest American movies of all time. I say surprised because from the moment I started going to the movies I have heard film buffs and critics favor GWTW as the all-time American film masterpiece. It certainly has everything filmgoers could want: heroism, villainy, tragedy, and action, all set against the backdrop of an event that is generally regarded as the defining moment in American history, the Civil War, and its immediate aftermath.

It has been accepted for nearly 60 years that GWTW is pretty much the story right about the South, slavery, and the Civil War. And now, this generation of filmgoers again can regain the South's heartbeats and triumphs with the film's re-release by New Line Cinema late last month. GWTW is still steeped in myths that film critics and audiences have ignored, or glossed over in the past. They include that African-Americans were the most part servile, loyal, and contented as slaves; slavery was a relatively benevolent brand of servitude; and the South was the victim of the Civil War. Author Margaret Mitchell set the tone for this historical whitewash in her novel which, since the romance, was essentially an impassioned homage to the virtues of the Old South, desecrated in her

view by brutal Yankees, predatory Northern Carpetbaggers, corrupt Southern Scallwags, and misguided Nordie do-gooders.

The film's producer David O. Selznick, mindful that the film would be criticized by the Black press and Black leaders, smoothed over the book's hard political edges. GWTW avoided the "N word," sanitized the more vicious stereotypes of Blacks, and allowed actress Hattie McDaniel to portray the leading Black character, the maid, Mammy, with some measure of sass and dignity. McDaniel was rewarded with an Oscar for best supporting actress in 1939, thus becoming the first African American to win an academy award.

But her towering performance didn't rescue the other Blacks in the film from negative stereotypes. They are depicted as cowering, docile, and obedient slaves, rules that were deeply etched in Hollywood screen lore by the 1930s. McDaniel's on-screen triumph also didn't translate into any major changes in Hollywood's image of African Americans. In fact, the actress wasn't even invited to the film's premiere at a racially segregated theater in Atlanta. During the next decade she appeared in more than 20 films, but still in the role of cook, housekeeper, or maid.

In GWTW, there are no cruel masters, beatings, gun toting slave punters, run away slaves, or abolitionists. Slavery is presented as no more harmful than the class-rigid paternalism of the English aristocracy. As for Reconstruction, there are no nightingales and Klansmen, whips, burning crosses, and little hint of the struggle of Blacks for political rights during that era.

To this day, the critics continue to heap praise on GWTW give the false impression that African Americans did not protest the film's distortions. Many television shows have taken into theaters where the film was shown, some Black newspapers attacked the film's racial stereotypes, and while the NAACP praised Selznick for "erasing the racial epithets, it declined to endorse the film.

GWTW will always be remembered as a film that reflects Hollywood filmmaking at its best. But it should also be remembered as a film that reflects Hollywood myth making at its worst.

Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Crisis in Black and White," email: elaruchi344@aol.com

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By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Jay Bulworth, the character portrayed by Warren Beatty in his recent movie, Bulworth is the prototypical U.S. politician so viciously distorted by American voters (70 percent) now think government is run by powerful interests working for themselves, not the people. A Kennedy liberal turned conservative, Senator Bulworth is a parody of California's venal and corrupt politicians. Senator Bulworth has come face to face with his own moral compass. He is placed in a position of anti-insurance company bill in exchange for a \$10 million life insurance policy a gift from an industry lobbyist. Then he connects it up with himself.

In this brilliantly designed set piece, the first five minutes of the movie shows not simply a political system gone mad with corruption, but a politician gone mad as well. Shortly after he seals his "suicide" deal and his campaign trail for the first days of his reelection bid Senator Bulworth, freed of the anguish of his leaders, not simply a political system gone mad with corruption, but a politician gone mad as well. Shortly after he seals his "suicide" deal and his campaign trail for the first days of his reelection bid Senator Bulworth, freed of the anguish of his leaders, not simply a political system gone mad with corruption, but a politician gone mad as well. Shortly after he seals his "suicide" deal and his campaign trail for the first days of his reelection bid Senator Bulworth, freed of the anguish of his leaders, not simply a political system gone mad with corruption, but a politician gone mad as well.

Suffice it to say that as an African American independent who has spent the better part of the last 15 years communicating to Black voters the extent to which the Democratic Party takes us for granted (even trying to create an alternative place for us to go) it was downright exhilarating to see the scene where a Black church member in South Central Los Angeles accuses Bulworth of saying that the Democratic Party doesn't care about Blacks. Bulworth confirms her charge.

I've spent over a decade trying to persuade such Black militants as Mumukshu Bhakti Singh and Jesse Jackson (who reportedly disliked the film) and Rev. Al Sharpton to be that honest. However, it was Bulworth, created by Warren Beatty along with his talented and insightful co-screenwriter Jeremy Jopson who finally reached a mass American audience with that message. Beatty and Bulworth turn out to have more guts than America's best-known Black leaders. Having also been a victim of the extent to which the Jewish establishment has opportunistically played the "Farrakhan card" to incite and raise money from Jews, I can't help but enjoy Bulworth's bumbling search for the pro-forma anti-Farrakhan remark in his speech to.

Dr. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party.

Black backs a fight against the strong men

By John William Templeton

On the same day that ATT announced plans to swallow TCI, the Federal Communications Commission decided to take a stand against media concentration in the most bizarre fashion. The FCC decided to block Prime Broadcasting, the only nationwide network of locally-produced, locally-casting films, from acquiring a second television station in the San Francisco Bay Area. Granite has managed to survive the competition because of its conservative, African-American staff and the leadership of W. Don Cornell.

GTCW already owns KNTV-11 in San Jose, approximately 60 miles south of San Francisco. KNTV-11 is an ABC affiliate in the same market as the ABC-owned KGO, which means that KNTV-11 will not have access to cable distribution outside the San Jose area. Granite then announced plans to acquire the only remaining independent station in the market, KOFY-Channel 20, a WB-network affiliate, which does have "must-carry" status throughout the entire television market.

Granite's track record with its previous 11 stations has been to upgrade news operations and improve sales performance.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 will go down in history as one of the great frauds of all time. Citizens are told by both Republicans and Democrats that if broadcasters, cable distributors, telephone and long distance producers were allowed to compete with each other, there would be more products, more diverse ownership and lower prices.

This hustle was abetted by a campaign to attack tax certificates for minority broadcast owners as a "quota" system. As soon as the ink was dry, these media PACs began gobbling each other up. Before 1996, a company could own more than 12 television stations and 12 radio stations. Now there are no limits except that a company's holdings should not reach more than 35 percent of the country.

Now each television network has swallowed up as many of its affiliates as possible, along with as many radio stations as possible. Ten companies now own most of the radio stations in the country and a half dozen dominant television broadcasting.

In San Francisco, Granite has to compete with a conglomerate that includes the San Francisco Chronicle,

what the movie termed, "Hollywood's Big Bear."

Mr. Pisker was the guest on my weekly television show and, together with my co-host Fred Newman, we had the opportunity to discuss the film's impact on the movie-going public, on progressive culture, and the statement the film was looking to make about Black/white relations, a statement about race relations, but also Bulworth's experience in coming into contact with a constituency he is supposed to serve, but is thoroughly alienated from. Still, because Bulworth falls in love with Nina, a young Black woman (Halle Berry) from the heart of South Central's drug and crime ridden ghetto and begins to rhyme (as in rap) rather than speak, some Black critics felt that the film and Beatty overstepped the bounds of political correctness. They're right. And therein lies the genius of the film.

Beatty as Bulworth (and no doubt Beatty as Beatty) is the world's most god-awful rapper. Not being white myself, it's a bit hard to gauge how humiliating it must be for white audiences to watch. For our part, Blacks feel ridiculous when it's the psychotic white Bulworth who tells us the depths of our hatred have sunk us into slavish relationship to the Democratic Party and our ruthless brutalization of one another in drug and gang life. Because the film takes seriously the notion that racism is a white problem, for which whites must take responsibility and action, it's impossible to feel either because it's not he and other Black arbiters of race relations in America would be out of a job.

For me, Bulworth was mainly about giving up the conservative and deadening politics of political correctness, the militant and racist Black nationalism is as conservative as Newt Gingrich's family values, and being willing to look ridiculous. Blacks and whites must be willing to be ridiculous together, we'd probably rid the country of racism in the process. Congratulations to Warren and Halle! Go see the movie!

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Black backs a fight against the strong men

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Political Analysis FIELD ASSIGNMENT

The New Majority

By Walter Fields

At the dawn of this century, scholar and intellectual Dr. W.E.B. Dubois suggested that the problem of the 20th century would be that of the "color line." The founder of the NAACP understood that the racial stratification present in American endangered democracy. Almost 100 years after Dubois' observation, and as we approach a new millennium, the color line will continue to define this nation. Race and ethnicity will play a dominant role in shaping American society in the next century. Albeit in a manner that could fundamentally transform America as we have come to know it.

Census data indicates that sometime early—within the first quarter of the 21st century, whites will lose their majority status in the United States. If present patterns of immigration persist, new entrants from Latin America and Asia will, along with blacks from a new majority. The Black population will benefit from an influx from the Caribbean and Africa, although the rate of growth will be slower than among Hispanics and Asians. The term "minority" will take on a whole new meaning.

This impending change raises some serious questions about how blacks will adapt to their new status. The Black population will benefit from an influx from the Caribbean and Africa, although the rate of growth will be slower than among Hispanics and Asians. The term "minority" will take on a whole new meaning.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

UNION — The New Jersey Technology Fast 50 Awards Breakfast acknowledges the 50 fastest growing technology companies in New Jersey. For more information, call 973-242-6227 ext. 224.

WESTFIELD — Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County is offering the course "Make Your 1998 Less Taxing." The class takes place from 7-9 p.m. at the RCE Auditorium. For more information, call 654-9854.

MONDAY, JULY 20

NEWARK — Watch "Employment New Jersey" on BuTV Public Television which airs Mondays at 7pm and Sundays at 9-10 am.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

MONMOUTH JUNCTION — Scranton Electronic Commerce Resource Center offers an introduction to EDI and a Software Open House to learn all about the fundamentals of the "must have" technology and to sample some EC/ED software firsthand. 800-575-ECRC.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

WESTFIELD — A class on "Long Term Financial Planning" will be offered at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Auditorium from 7-9 pm. For more information, call 908-654-9854.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

NEW YORK — A two-day expo "Customer Relationship Management Through Integrated Business Solutions" at the Jacob Javits Center. For more information, call 1-800-524-3242.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

NEW YORK — A one-day seminar "Business Writing Skills" will be offered at the New York Marriott East Side. For more information, call 1-800-255-4141.

NEW YORK — A two-day seminar on "Business Writing Skills" will be offered at the New York Marriott East Side. For more information and to register, call 1-800-621-3919.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

WESTFIELD — A class on "Asset Allocation" will be offered at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Auditorium from 7-9 pm. For more information, call 908-654-9854.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

FAIRFIELD — A two-day seminar on facilities management held at the Best Western Executive Inn from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 1-800-821-3919.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

EDISON — A comprehensive two-day workshop on Business Writing & Grammar Skills held at the Clarion Hotel at Edison Square. To enroll and for more information, call 908-258-7246.

ATLANTA — The Black Professional Secretaries Association hosts the 9th Annual Professional Development Conference at the Atlanta Renaissance Hotel. Workshops include building a resume, job interviewing and the "virtual office." For more information, call 770-578-5005.

Are blacks left behind by prosperity?

By Bruce Smith
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The government does a lot to help business invest in foreign nations, but what is needed now is a way to help them invest in impoverished areas of the United States, the Rev. Jesse Jackson says.

Jackson, who was in town to address the National Association of State Treasurers, said that millions of people are still in poverty despite the booming economy. He said while the United States has development programs to encourage investment and reduce business risks abroad, "there's no such security to develop undeveloped America."

Jackson said a round table meeting will be held in New York next month to discuss the issue with top corporate executives and other business leaders.

"We simply need a formula for development of the American people," Jackson said. He said few would have imagined Jackson, a Greenville, S.C., native, said people should have the right to decide whether they want gambling but said gaming can't replace investing in jobs.

Democrat Jim Hodges, who is running for governor, has proposed a lottery as a way of raising money for education.

"A gambling boat is not a substitute for a textile job. It is not a substitute for a family farm. You need in that area investment or incentives to increase investment and reduce risk," Jackson said.

Prudential gets go ahead to trade stock publicly

TRENTON (AP) — Gov. Christie Whitman recently signed a bill that will set up a framework for the Prudential Insurance Co. of America to become a publicly traded company.

The law will start a process for the nation's largest life insurer to convert from a company owned by policyholders to one owned by stockholders. Newark-based Prudential says converting will help it raise capital to better compete in the marketplace.

"We're delighted that the governor signed the bill into law," said Robert DeFillippo, spokesman for Prudential. "Now we begin a long process that includes some very detailed work on the reorganization plan. We will now come up with a detailed blueprint on how Prudential will look as a public company." Prudential hopes to go public by the first quarter of the year 2000, DeFillippo said.

The upcoming process will determine the rules for how Prudential's 11 million holders of life insurance policies and annuities will fare in the conversion. One million of these policyholders are from New Jersey.

Under the plan, policyholders would be allowed to become stockholders or get cash. DeFillippo said the company's intent is for policy-

holders to get Prudential stock. He said the cash settlements would be targeted to business 401K plans, which cannot get stock under federal law.

Officials estimate the disbursement could be in the \$20 billion range, but that figure could change, depending on how much Prudential is worth at the time of the conversion.

Prudential officials said the law will provide the nation's toughest rules for such a changeover. Consumer advocates say it includes loopholes that could allow Prudential to limit public discussion and keep secret documents that could determine how the pot is divided.

"Our hope is that the process of approving the plan, which is going to be large and complex, won't be like the process of passing the bill, which happened with little public deliberation," said Anthony Wright, program director for New Jersey Citizen Action.

The reorganization process requires "fair and equitable" standards be set to distribute the value of the policies to policyholders. It requires a detailed plan on how the conversion would be set up. The plan would require approval by three-quarters of Prudential's board of directors, and the insurance commissioner.



The bill signed by Governor Whitman will start a process for the Prudential to convert from a company owned by policyholders to one owned by stockholders.

Finally, at least one million policyholders must vote on the plan, and at least two-thirds of those voting must approve. DeFillippo said no company has required such a high approval standard when going through this process.

New rules set for minority preferences

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has developed new guidelines for determining which minority-owned businesses receive preferences for federal contracts. Owners will have to prove they are disadvantaged.

"These reforms, which continue my promise to expand—not end—affirmative action, extend opportunities for small disadvantaged businesses," President Clinton said in a statement released recently at the

White House. The new guidelines are not subject to congressional approval and will be phased in by Jan. 1. Other changes target industries in which minority companies' share of federal business is smaller than their market share, according to a Commerce Department survey. The likely industries include electronics, printing, transportation equipment and building materials. White House officials said, Companies in the industries that

fit the profile will get a price break of up to 10 percent in calculating the low bidder for government contracts. This so-called price evaluation credit is not a set-aside and does not ensure any firm will win a contract, Clinton said.

Eligible businesses, which previously identified themselves as being owned and controlled by at least one "minority and economically disadvantaged" person, will now be certified by the Small Business Administration.

SBA aids hispanic businesses

PATERSON — Aida Alvarez, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), recently signed a partnership agreement with the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SHCC) of New Jersey. The agreement is part of SBA's three year Outreach initiative designed to sharply increase the amount of financing and other technical assistance available to America's Hispanic entrepreneurs.

At the Partnership Agreement signing, Administrator Alvarez said, "Today, the SBA is joining forces with the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey to help Hispanic entrepreneurs in New Jersey start, build and grow their businesses to the 21st century. This historic partnership means that many more Hispanic-owned businesses will be able to take advantage of the SBA's programs, services and financial assistance."



SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez

overall Outreach Initiative to reach historically underserved and underutilized business communities. The partnership agreement will not only result in increased loans to Hispanic businesses throughout New Jersey, but will also serve to educate the Hispanic community on the many other programs and services the SBA offers to help entrepreneurs start and build successful businesses.

The agreement was signed at the Paterson Small Business Development Center in Paterson, New Jersey. Signing for the SHCC, which has seven local chapter members, was Daniel H. Jara, president and CEO.

The SBA's Hispanic Initiative is expected to result in a tripling of loan assistance to Hispanic small businesses. In the next three years alone, the SBA expects to guarantee \$2.5 billion of loans to Hispanic-owned companies.

Mutual funds help achieve financial goals

Dale G. Caldwell

Mutual funds continue to be the most popular investment used to achieve personal financial planning goals. Last week I outlined the three major advantages of investing in mutual funds. This week I will describe the three major types of mutual funds. They are:

Money Market Mutual Funds
Money market mutual funds are the only type of mutual fund in which the share price is locked at \$1 per share and does not vary. Owners of money market mutual funds receive dividend payments. These funds are attractive because the dividend payment is typically higher than the interest you would receive in a bank savings account. In addition, money market mutual funds typically provide shareholders with check writing privileges (although checks usually have to be \$250 or more). Money market mutual funds are not insured. However, they invest large sums of money in Treasury securities and other government debt, 60 to 90 day commercial paper (short-term debt issued by major corporations), and large certificates of deposit (CDs).

Bond Funds
Like money market mutual funds, bond funds are considered one of the safest types of mutual funds. Bond funds invest in bonds issued by corporations and governments. Bond mutual funds contain a diversified portfolio of many bonds thereby minimizing the risk to shareholders. Each bond has a specified interest rate and maturity date. Typically, fund managers will hold a wide variety of bonds with many different interest rates and maturity dates to increase the investment return while minimizing the investment risk. The three types of bond funds are "Short-term," "Intermediate Term" and "Long-term."

Short-term bond fund managers purchase bonds that are maturing in the next few years. Intermediate term bond fund managers purchase bonds that mature in seven to ten years. Long-term bond fund managers purchase bonds that mature in fifteen or more years. The bond funds purchasing longer term bonds will typically fluctuate more in price and have a higher rate of return. The rate of

return of bond funds also depends on the credit rating of the bonds. The lower the credit rating the greater the risk of default and the higher the interest rate. Some funds invest in only AAA and AA rated bonds. Other funds invest in B or lower rated bonds. In short, not all bond funds are the same. Make sure that you understand what bonds are in a mutual fund portfolio before you invest in bond funds.

Stock Funds
Stocks represent a share of ownership in a corporation. Stock funds invest mostly in the stocks of publicly traded companies. Stock funds are the most popular of all mutual funds because they have outpaced inflation by 10 percent to 20 percent (some funds have done even better) over the last 20 years. Money market mutual funds and bond funds are much safer investments, however, they have outpaced inflation by only 3 percent to 5 percent in the same time period. Stock fund managers purchase a portfolio of stocks that they believe will help them achieve their investment goals while minimizing their investment risk. Stock funds make money through dividends, capital gains distributions and appreciation. Some of the stocks within a mutual fund portfolio may pay dividends which are passed on to the mutual fund shareholder. The profit received from selling a stock at a higher price than the purchase price is called capital gains. These capital gains (or capital losses) are shared by the mutual fund shareholders. The mutual fund purchase price per share fluctuates on a daily basis. Therefore you can make money or lose money by selling mutual fund shares at the current price.

You are now familiar with the three major types of mutual funds. Investing in stock funds tests proven to be the best way to achieve your financial goals. Next week I will review the sub-types of stock mutual funds.

Dale G. Caldwell is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC), a former Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and a National Director of Recruiting at Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

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Local Brief

Historic church receives funds for preservation

TRENTON—St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark recently received a \$450,000 low interest loan for the preservation of this historic church. The loan was made through legislative bill ACR-110 sponsored by Assemblyman Craig A. Stanley.

"New Jersey's history can be found in the many buildings and churches in all of our communities," said Stanley (D-Irvington). "We cannot allow this history to crumble to the ground by not preserving these important historic buildings."

The funds for this preservation project would come from the "New Jersey Green Acres, Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1987." In 1987, \$3 million was appropriated to provide low-interest loans to finance historic preservation projects by counties, municipalities and tax exempt nonprofit associations. The New Jersey Historic Trust has approved the project for funding, subject to its passage through the Legislature.

"This church holds many memories for the people of Newark," said Stanley. "This project will not only restore a building but a community as well."

Herman Amis brings 'Spirit' to local radio

By g.n. mattox

After a run of over 35 years at Newark-based station WNJR, veteran radio announcer Herman Amis and his show "The Spirit Connection" has settled into Bridgewater's WSPW (1170 AM). His presence at this small, Central Jersey station has caused a big change in what the community is hearing and the feedback received so far shows that listeners want to hear more.

While Amis has played a role in every conceivable area of music programming, he finds his mix of classic/traditional/contemporary gospel music an excellent vehicle for capturing an audience. "The key is to having the right mix of music without specializing in any one thing." As a program director, his goal is to communicate with and between the various communities, bringing in new voices and information specifically geared to the African American neighborhoods in the surrounding areas of New Brunswick, Piscataway and Plainfield. "I am putting my

efforts into bringing great music and timely information to the listeners in this area, and I know the word will continue to spread about what we're doing here, as it already has over the past two weeks," he says.

While the music is the foundation, other elements play an integral part in "The Spirit Connection." Segments in the show include legal information from attorney Alan Kamel, news from the Garden State News Service, health and medical information from Dr. Ivan Koshin and inspirational messages from Evangelist Mattie Moultrie Wilson. Staff writers from City News are on the air every Wednesday to give highlights from the pages of this paper as it hits the streets. "The purpose is to share information of particular interest to our area, and to make these separate neighborhoods aware of each other," he said.

Amis is encouraged in his efforts by station owner and long-time associate Dan Lohse. These two go back to the days when Lohse was an engineer at WNJR



One of the features of "The Spirit Connection with Herman Amis" is playwright and evangelist Mattie Moultrie Wilson.

And Amis was a staff announcer working all shifts and playing all types of black music. "It's great working with Herman again," he said. "This continues a relationship that started many years ago. Herman has a wide listenership and it will undoubtedly follow him here."

Not surprisingly, Amis has stories about his radio career that run the gamut from funny to sad. "One of the most emotional experiences I had while at 'NJR' was being involved in a six month strike in the 60's," he recalls. "We were striking for more money, but more importantly, we wanted black management."

On the other hand, creating a persona was something that was a lot of fun. At one point he was known as "El Grande" who, with his horse Diablo, would musically chase all the bad guys off of Springfield Avenue. This was very popular with the housewives and young children. "I came to New Brunswick for a personal appearance once all dressed up in my 'El Grande' costume and I was met by a crowd of about 800 mothers with their children. The children—and some of the mamas too—were disappointed because they wanted to see Diablo, and I didn't bring him," he laughs.

After a career this long and colorful, many people would be content to slow down a little. However, Herman Amis has gotten a second wind. "I am planning some major events for this Fall and the Spring to bring in some live entertainment and have some fun," he says. "But building communication bridges between the communities in my primary focus."

As the voice of Shirley Caesar fades out and he prepares to take the air he says, "It's all been great. I am having fun right here. At this point, I don't care if I have two people listening, I'd give them the same performance."

Raritan Coalition talks improvement

PLAINFIELD—The City of Plainfield hosted the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition at Plainfield's main station recently. The Coalition, which is incorporating as a non-profit organization, is composed of communities along New Jersey Transit's Raritan Valley Line and provides a forum for discussion of desirable improvement in the service offered to the communities along the line and their commuters.

The meeting was hosted by mayor Al McWilliams who welcomed those attending which included Congressman Bob Franks.



George "Gee-Gee" Brown

THE 2ND ANNUAL GEORGE "GEE-GEE" BROWN



MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT JULY 17 - JULY 19, 1998

Helping your Community Can Mean Helping Yourself



Jabbar Jones

Join Jabbar Jones & other celebrity athletes in the 2nd memorial tournament for the late George "Gee-Gee" Brown who was gunned down in 1988 by a stray bullet during a basketball game.

This is not only a tournament for adults, but children will be involved as well. Loads of prizes and CD's will be given away to the youth. Among the prizes will be two basketball camp scholarships to Rider University and Rutgers University.

The games will be held at Madison Avenue Playground located at Madison and W. 2nd St. in Plainfield (adjacent to McDonald's).

Game Time

Friday, July 17 at 5 p.m.
Saturday, July 18 at 12 p.m.
Sunday, July 19 at 12 p.m.

Vendors are welcome and for more information, contact: Jabbar Jones, Tournament Coordinator at 908-233-1446 or 908-233-0245.

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HILLSIDE:

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SPRINGFIELD:

24 Union Avenue

1005 Springfield Avenue

LIVINGSTON:

401 South Livingston Avenue

LONG BRANCH:

100 Broadway

MADISON:

15 W. 10th Street

MILLBURN:

243 Millburn Avenue

NAVESINK:

Highway 26 and Valley Drive

PLAINFIELD:

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Route 10 East, Roxbury Mall

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SPRINGFIELD:

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Mountain and Morris Avenue

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Caribbean carnival tested at waterfront

By gr. mattox

Pan Drums. Jerk Chicken. Winding in the street. Soca and Jump-up. All these things will be a part of Jersey City's third annual Caribbean Carnival. The event will take place on July 25 at the Waterfront pier on Exchange Place. "Yet again, we plan for a spectacular outing on that day," said publicity coordinator Cheryl D.B. Murphy.

In addition to all the elements that make Carnivals all over the world such a fun-filled event, including a food court, market place, fabulous costume and beautiful music, there will be free dental screenings for children and a "Talk Tent" featuring Post AWOY and friends.

The day's activities will begin with a parade starting at 1 p.m. from Lincoln Park. The festive occasion is one of three in the local area. East Orange holds its Carnival on August 16, and Brooklyn, NY holds its festival from August 28 to September 1.

For more information on how you can participate in the Jersey City event—whether it be as a vendor, volunteer, parade marcher or just as an observer, call 973-371-2442.



Jersey City will turn into a town in the Carraibbean on July when Carnival comes to town. Part of the spectacle will be elaborate costumes like the one above.



Drug chain launches tribute to women

NEW YORK—As America and the Eckerd Corporation celebrate their birthdays, Eckerd is paying tribute to America's spirit of volunteerism through a search to honor women whose volunteer efforts have impacted their own communities.

Frank Newman, Eckerd chairman, president and CEO, and Veronica Webb, super model, writer and supporter of community issues, recently announced the details of the program. More than 2,700 women from Eckerd neighborhoods will be honored and nominated for inclusion in The Eckerd 100.

In addition to recognition and volunteer hours from her local Eckerd store, each of The Eckerd 100 women will receive an invitation to attend an expense-paid trip to The Eckerd 100 Symposium co-hosted by the Emory Women's Center in Atlanta, Ga. and a \$1,000 grant will go to support her charitable activity.

"Our goal for our anniversary program is to identify and celebrate women who have devoted their time and effort to making America's neighborhoods better places to live," said Mr. Newman. "Although we are celebrating our past, our focus is on the future and we believe that the best hope for the future of America lies in the hands of those who are willing to give of themselves to make their community better."

Selection of these Eckerd women will take place in two phases. The first phase began with the program launch and the start of The Eckerd 100 Search on July 2, 1998, which runs through July 31, 1999. During the search, people in each Eckerd neighborhood will be encouraged to nominate women who they feel typify the American spirit of individual responsibility and devotion. Each Eckerd store will select one nominee whose dedication and commitment can only be described as extraordinary. These local nominees will receive recognition from Eckerd Corporation, and volunteer hours from store associates.



The Eckerd 100 women honors volunteers from all walks of life donated to the (lower) choice of non-profit organization or cause.

The symposium, which will be held at Emory University on October 16-18, 1998 and co-hosted by the nationally acclaimed Emory Women's Center, will be a forum designed to honor the achievements of the women chosen. It also will provide these women with an opportunity to share ideas, experiences and resources as well as the time to meet and speak with educators, celebrities and others focused on current women's issues such as family poverty, child welfare, wellness and caring for aging parents.

The computer system used by Info Line is a super-database with special telecommunication capabilities. Incoming calls in English and Spanish will be handled by Info Line staff. In addition, other non-English speaking callers can be accommodated through translation services provided by AT&T Language Line.

Info Line also exists as a valuable source of information for health and human services professionals. Private and public organizations can turn to us for data regarding trends in needs, gaps in services and referrals for their clients. These organizations can rely on our data analysts as a tool for program planning and policy development which will directly impact our residents.

The system's database categorizes program information by type of service, eligibility criteria, hours of operation, access to transportation, language translation, target population and other information required to obtain service. Statistical information on unmet service needs is compiled on a timely basis and distributed through the human service network to planners and funders in the county. This will help to point out service gaps and aid in future program planning and development. All client-identifying data remains strictly confidential.

The number of Info Line of Middlesex County is 1-888-908-4636.

Black tourism touts civil rights sites

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Blacks spend billions of dollars annually on conventions and travel, and city and state tourism agencies are taking notice. Aggressively promoting themselves to tour operators and meeting planners are cities and states where black heroes were born and buried, where protesters marched for civil rights, and—in some places—where black leaders were killed.

Spending by blacks on tourism and conventions has grown from about \$16 billion in 1991 to about \$35 billion last year, says Solomon Herbert, publisher of Black Meetings & Tourism magazine in Winnetka, Calif. Overall tourism spending in the United States is about \$440 billion annually.

Communities where painful chapters of black history were written have been especially successful in drawing tourists.

"Many of them feel they have more to tell for the African-American market because of all the history and events that have taken place there," Herbert says. "They've named that around, made it attractive and named it into a marketing tool."

The effort began in most communities during the recession in the '80s when tourism slowed. City and state promoters recognized the business potential of reaching out to blacks.

Communities blacks had considered unfriendly began inviting tour operators and representatives of black groups for visits to dispel any negative image. Small-city towns took pains to show their progress with race relations.

Alabama was among the first to recognize the market. The state began promoting black historical sites in 1983. Its "Black Heritage Guide" highlights the Montgomery church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had his first pastoral service. The Birmingham church where a bomb killed four little girls in 1963, and the city's Civil Rights Institute.

Philadelphia followed in 1988, creating a multicultural tourism agency that promoted the city's historic sites—the first black-owned hospital and insurance company—along with museums and art festivals.

Last year, the multicultural agency drew \$73 million in business to the city, out of about \$197 million in tourism convention spending overall, Philadelphia tourism officials said.

Marketers in Chattanooga and Memphis, Tenn., and the state of Georgia, plan to release black tourism guides this summer. Among the attrac-



The National Park Service produces the book "African American Historic Places," which features information on 800 places in 42 states.

tions to be highlighted are the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis—the site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968—the African-American Museum in Chattanooga, and King's Atlanta birthplace.

Grad rates between races equaling out

WASHINGTON (AP)—More women than men are completing college and young blacks are nearly equaling the high school graduation rate of whites, says a new Census Bureau report.

Some 86.2 percent of blacks aged 25 to 29 were high school graduates last year, as were 87.6 percent of whites, said the recently released study. "Educational Attainment in the United States, March 1997."

"The educational attainment of young African-Americans indicates a dramatic improvement by groups who historically have been less educated," Census population specialist Jennifer Day said.

In higher education, 29.3 percent of whites and 26.3 percent of men in the 25-29 age group had completed four years or more of college as of last year. That was up from 28.2 percent for women and 26.1 percent for men in 1996.

Men traditionally have been more likely to have completed college, but women have been edging steadily upward in recent years as they increasingly seek careers and recognize the economic value of education, Ms. Day said. Before 1985 men had the lead consistently.

Young women also led men in completing high school, 88.9 percent to 85.8 percent. For the total 1997 population age 25 and over, men still held a lead in college completion, 26 percent to 22 percent. For high school both were at 82 percent.

The Hispanic population also has experienced educational gains, but it remains far behind other groups. The proportion aged 25 to 29 who were high school graduates rose from 51 percent in 1987 to 55 percent in 1997, while the share with some college education jumped from 22 percent to 29 percent.

Blacks have continued trending upward in educational achievement since 1940, Ms. Day said. In 1940, just 12.3 percent of blacks aged 25 to 29 had finished high school, compared with 41.2 percent of whites. By 1965, 50.3 percent of that age group were graduates, compared with 72.8 percent of whites.

Other studies have shown much higher high school dropout rates for black pupils. The Census study's older age group, however, reflects other findings that many black dropouts attain high school diplomas or an equivalent later.

The report is based on the March 1997 Current Population Survey, a nationwide sample of 50,000 households that collected a variety of data.

Other findings of the report: Average 1996 earnings for people 18 and over, by educational attainment, were: Didn't finish high school, \$15,011; high school graduate, \$22,154; bachelor's degree, \$38,112; higher degree, \$61,317.

Info Line provides services and solutions

NEW BRUNSWICK—You lost your job four weeks ago, your rent hasn't been paid, your two kids are hungry, and the power company is going to shut off the electricity if the bill isn't paid by Saturday.

No one would know what to do first in this situation. Who can help? Wouldn't it be nice if you could just get one person, and have them lead you onto the right track?

This is the concept of Info Line. As the county's first computer-based information and referral system, the primary mission is to link people in need with appropriate services to address their particular problems. A county-wide, non-profit organization, Info Line provides a much needed single point of access to a host of social

and human service organizations in the county.

The computer system used by Info Line is a super-database with special telecommunication capabilities. Incoming calls in English and Spanish will be handled by Info Line staff. In addition, other non-English speaking callers can be accommodated through translation services provided by AT&T Language Line.

Health Calendar

SUNDAY, JULY 19

WARREN—Blood drive sponsored by the Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the Red Cross and New Jersey Blood Services at Our Lady of the Mount. Call 908-756-6414.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

NEWARK—The New Jersey Children's Health Project will take place every Tuesday at Friendly Field neighborhood House. Call 973-216-6000.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

GREENBROOK—Blood drive sponsored by the Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the Red Cross and New Jersey Blood Services at Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home. Call 908-756-6414.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a workshop on Compulsive Gambling, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 908-233-8810.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

JERSEY CITY—The 10th Anniversary of NorthStar (Northern Shock Trauma Air Rescue) will feature food, fun, games, and a M*A*S*H-style blood drive. At Morris Pension Field at Liberty State Park. For more info, call 973-782-2857.

Doctors Bomar and Alder join forces to serve the community



Passing the torch: When Dr. Lamar Bomar, at left, does decide to retire, he will not be too concerned for the community, having left his practice in the capable hands of Dr. Edward Adler, at right.

By g.r. mastro

Personalized, thorough health-care in the black community is becoming increasingly scarce. Two doctors have gotten together to make sure this doesn't happen, and ensure a continuity of quality care in the Plainfield community.

Dr. Lamar Bomar is a family physician who has been a fixture in the Plainfield community. Although he has lightened his workload in recent years, he was concerned about where people would find a caring, qualified physician when he did retire. "I did consider just closing down, but the need for a minority physician in this community is very great," Dr. Bomar said.

A resolution to this problem came in the form of a call to Dr. Bomar from the Internal Medicine department at Muhlenberg Hospital. "They recommended to me this young doctor with excellent credentials," he said. "And we both decided that he should join my practice."

That young doctor is Edward Alder. "I am very excited about coming back to Plainfield," the Nigerian-born U.S. citizen said. "I am especially thrilled about working with such a well respected physician as Dr. Bomar."

Because of his MD and MPH degrees, Dr. Alder is qualified to

practice comprehensive medicine which combines both preventative and curative medicine.

Dr. Alder's practice style could best be described as compassionate. He encourages patient input and active participation. "It is important to listen to the patient, let them finish their statements, discuss the diagnosis and make sure they understand the treatment plan,"

Dr. Alder completed his residency at Muhlenberg in 1996. He is board certified in Internal Medicine. Taking full advantage of his unrestricted license in the state of New Jersey, he is currently attending physician at two other health facilities in addition to Muhlenberg. Dr. Alder is also a staff physician at facilities in Berkeley Heights and Greenbrook.

The married father of three has lived in the community for three years. "In that time I have become very familiar with the patients and institutions in the area," he said. Dr. Bomar has confidence in his new partner.

"I found him to be very knowledgeable about his work and the area," he said. To help ease him into his new community and patients' workload, Dr. Bomar is currently refurbishing the offices. "He's just starting out, and we need to give each other a hand," said the elder doctor.

Different glaucoma response in blacks

By Randolph Schmid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—White patients respond best to one surgical regime for advanced glaucoma, while a different approach seems to work better for blacks, researchers for the National Institutes of Health reported yesterday.

As a result, doctors are likely to start recommending different treatments for blacks and whites suffering from the eye disease.

"We predicted originally that one or the other approach would be better, but we never thought it would break down by race. So this was a surprise," said Dr. Douglas E. Gasterland, who headed the study that identified the difference.

This is the first evidence that members of two racial groups benefit from different treatments for glaucoma," said Dr. Carl Kupfer, director of NIH's eye institute.

"Doctors now have better information to recommend treatment programs depending on the patient's race," he said.

"I'm not sure I can think of any other condition in which the treatment is different because of the ethnic background or the race" of the patient, Kupfer said.

Why do the races respond differently? That's the million-dollar question. A study of this design can't answer that, though we're looking into all of the possibilities we can find," said Gasterland, of University Ophthalmic Consultants in Washington.

They're going to keep on looking, because it is important."

The findings are reported in the July edition of Ophthalmology, the journal of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss, with an estimated three million Americans suffering the disorder and 120,000 blind as a result of it. The ailment is progressive and treatment is designed to preserve vision. Treatment begins with eye drops and progresses to surgery.

Children at risk for heat stroke

By Dr. Ellen Putter
New York University School of Medicine

It's summer and the air is filled with the joyous sounds of children at play. From morning until night, children are chasing balls, capturing flags and playing tag. But this picture can turn grim if children play too hard and so long that they experience a condition called heat stroke.

Overheating occurs when people overexert themselves in very hot weather. Heat stroke takes place when the body's internal temperature rises high enough to damage itself. Although this is rare, heat stroke can cause imbalances in the body's electrolytes (or natural salts), shut down the kidneys, and cause shock or even death. Among those at greatest risk for heat stroke are the elderly, who are sensitive to heat and poor air quality, and children, who may not pay attention to signs that they are becoming overheated. Signs of extreme overheating include thirst, fatigue, flushed skin and feelings of dizziness.

At special risk are infants, toddlers and children with chronic illnesses, such as heart and lung problems or diabetes.

Infants and toddlers are especially sensitive to the sun because the surface area of their heads is large, relative to the rest of their bodies. Because of this greater surface area, their heads—if exposed to the sun—can absorb harmful amounts of heat. Therefore, infants and toddlers should always wear hats when they go outside in hot, sunny weather. Very young children are also at risk for heat stroke because they may not be able to verbalize their need for water. Remember to provide them with plenty of liquids.

The good news is that heat stroke is almost entirely preventable. To protect your children this summer, follow these simple common-sense precautions:

•Never leave children locked

inside an unattended car, even for a few minutes. Although this can be dangerous any time, it can quickly turn deadly when the weather is hot. Almost every summer, there are news reports of children dying of heat or suffocation after being locked inside a car and forgotten. Temperatures inside a parked car can reach as high as 150 degrees F in the summer.

•Make sure children get plenty of fluids. Send them to camp with a water bottle. Or, if they're playing in the back yard, call frequent breaks for drinks. Serve children sports drinks to replace electrolytes that may be lost due to excessive sweating, or serve food with some added salt, which can also replace electrolytes lost through sweat.

•Give children opportunities to cool off in water. Set up sprinklers, visit swimming pools or lakes, set up wading pools, or just use the shower. Immersing oneself in cold—but not icy—water is a good way to cool the body down.

•Have children play in shady areas, and make sure they take time out to rest.

•In times of extreme heat, allow children to cool off in air conditioning. If your home is not air-conditioned, use fans to circulate the air or visit movie theaters, restaurants or stores that are air-conditioned.

•Have children dress in light-colored clothes, which absorb less heat than dark colors. Avoid clothes made of synthetic fibers. Sweating is the body's natural way of cooling down. Clothing made of natural fibers allows the body to cool properly.

If a child shows signs of overheating, don't just take steps to cool him down. A person who loses consciousness due to heat stroke should be taken immediately to the emergency room.

Dr. Ellen Putter is an assistant clinical instructor of pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine in New York City.

Medical Center's Cancer program ranks among the best

JERSEY CITY—The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has granted four-year approval to Liberty Cancer Institute, the cancer program at Jersey City Medical Center. Only top cancer treatment programs that provide total cancer care and pass rigorous quality tests can receive this important designation.

"There are other hospitals in northern New Jersey that also have Teaching Hospital Cancer Program status, such as Hackensack and St. Barnabas, and UMDNJ in Newark. However, we are the only hospital with this designation in Hudson County," said H. Colleen Silva, M.D., Surgical Oncologist and Chairman of the Cancer Committee for Liberty Cancer Institute.

Approval of the Medical Center's cancer program provides important benefits for patients and the Hudson County community alike. Said Dr. Silva, "For patients fighting cancer, and their families and friends, this designation demonstrates that the loss to local cancer care—including the highest quality services, access to all treatment modalities, the benefit of the most current research and the most promising clinical trials—is reduced."

ly available close to home, right in Hudson County."

An integral part of a cancer program is the tumor registry. All patients who are diagnosed or treated for cancer are listed in the registry so that the institution can maintain contact with them and make sure they receive continuing care and assistance with rehabilitation. Information collected through the registry allows the Liberty Cancer Institute at Jersey City Medical Center to participate in national studies that are designed to improve patient care. These studies

focus on diagnostic patterns, surgery, other treatment, and patient outcome.

Using annual cancer registry data from more than 1,000 U.S. cancer treatment organizations, approved hospitals are able to comparatively assess their patterns of care using registry data from the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB), while stringently maintaining patient confidentiality. NCDB benchmark studies completed during 1993, for example, included cancers of the breast, endometrium, larynx, ovary, pancreas, prostate, stomach, and thyroid.

EDWARD A. ALDER, MD, MPH. Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Dr. Alder is back in Plainfield!

He has joined Dr. Lamar Bomar and is now seeing patients at their office located at: 419 Spooner Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Now Accepting New and Former Patients

For more information or to schedule an appointment,
Please call (908) 222-9600.
Day and evening hours available. Walk-ins accepted.
Minor insurance accepted.



Foundation accepting grant applications

SUMMIT—The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, North Jersey Chapter, is now accepting grant applications from breast cancer-related non-profit organizations located in the Chapter's service area of Bergen, Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union counties.

The Foundation's grants will be awarded bi-annually, with this year's application deadline of November 15, 1998. Announcement for the November 15 deadline will be December 31, 1998. Guidelines for submitting applications can be obtained by calling Mary Hess at the Foundation's North Jersey Chapter Office at 908-277-2904. The Susan G.

Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is the nation's largest private funder of research dedicated solely to breast cancer. The non-profit organization was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36. The Foundation is a national organization with a network of volunteers working through local chapters to help eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment.

The North Jersey Chapter Office of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is located at 447 Springfield Avenue (in the Strand Mall), Summit.

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YOU CAN PROBABLY AFFORD
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Religion Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

PLAINFIELD—King's Temple Christian Assembly is now accepting applications for children for the nursery, pre-school, and elementary programs. 908-753-7424.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

NEW YORK—Evangelist Bill Graham will have a press conference at the Waldorf Astor Hotel at 10:30 a.m. to announce plans for an unprecedented international event in 2,000.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

PLAINFIELD—Rose of Sharon Voices of Praise choir celebrates their 34th anniversary 6 p.m. at the Rose of Sharon Community Church. For more info, call 908-661-0070.

PLAINFIELD—The First Park Baptist Church will have a vacation bible school through July 18th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mon., Fri. and Sat. 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Sat. weekdays. For more info call 908-756-5322.

HACKENSACK—New Hope Baptist Church will sponsor an African Market Place from noon until closing. For more info call 201-943-9449.

MONDAY, JULY 27

PLAINFIELD—The Christian Fellowship Gospel Church will host a "First Service" at 7 p.m. at the Gospel Church. Start promptly at 7 p.m. 908-769-6886.

Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School receives \$5,000 gift

EAST ORANGE—Inspired by the life and ministry of Bishop Joseph A. Francis, an anonymous donor today presented Brother James DeRito, CFC, principal of Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School, with a gift of \$5,000.

Essex Catholic High School recently added Bishop Joseph A. Francis' name to the school. The bishop lived on the high school's campus for more than 20 years and was a friend to thousands of students, parents and administrators. The fourth Bishop Catholic in the United States, Bishop Francis was a nationally known human rights advocate and educator. He died in September 1997.

A celebration and dedication event, commemorating the addition of Bishop Francis' name to the school will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 17. "Bishop Francis reminded us that we are constantly called to intensify our faith, to deepen the generosity and fervor with which we respond to God's call," said the benefactor. "For the Bishop, this was reflected in our work for peace and justice through the love of one another. This gift celebrates Bishop Francis' message and life, and we hope, will inspire others to provide to the young people who were so close to the Bishop's heart."

"This generous donation was made

to honor Bishop Francis and to commemorate the June 26 anniversary of his episcopal consecration as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark and Regional Bishop for Essex County," said DeRito. "Funds will be presented as gifts of \$500 to 10 students for the 1998-1999 school year."

Recipients of the scholarship funding include:
Four sophomores: Thomas Campbell, Irvington; Michael Chancy, Irvington; Aaron Spencer, East Orange; and Naquan Williams, East Orange.
Four juniors: Eric Fernandez, Irvington; Torrie Howard, Newark; Terrell Ingram, Newark; and Kevin LaSalle, East Orange.

Two seniors:
Eddie Baldwin, Newark; and Michael Watson, Newark.

"One of the ways Bishop Francis would have liked to be remembered is as helping students achieve a Catholic education," said DeRito. "This gift honors him in exactly that way."

The total tuition costs to attend Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School total \$4,500. Several scholarship and tuition assistance options are available.

Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School is located at 135 Glenwood Avenue in East Orange. For 40 years, the



Bishop Joseph Francis

all-boys school has been a model for values-based education. Founded in 1957, it was the first of the regional high schools in the Archdiocese of Newark and has graduated more than 6,000 men. Nearly all graduates attend college and alumni compose an impressive number of professionals in business, law, education, medicine, government, and religion. For more information about Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School please call 973-674-4200.

The Pastor's Word

by Rev. Reginald T. Jackson

Over the last several months there have been a series of decisions, or events that have had tremendous significance or impact upon African American and those who live in the urban areas of the state. Collectively they send a message to us and ought to challenge us to respond. Yet unfortunately not of the people to live in the urban areas of this state are not even aware of these decisions and events, let alone the consequences to us.

First is the matter of auto insurance premiums. The governor recently signed legislation that suppose to reduce auto insurance premiums by 15 percent for every good driver in the state. Yet despite this claim, the reality is that those of us who live in the urban areas of the state may not see a decrease in the rates we pay.

That's because the law says that premiums will be based on where you live (territories), as opposed to the records of the driver. Because of this those who live in the inner city already pay 35 percent more than those in the suburbs.

The law signed by the governor specifically says that there will be a cap (limit), on what seniors and young people can be charged, but nothing for other good drivers in the inner city, who are predominantly African American.

This was done because most African American knew nothing about the issue, our leadership, did not unite to fight it, because politicians did not feel they had anything to fear or lose by voting against our interest.

Second, is the issue of school funding. The state Supreme Court last month issued a ruling which gave the state Commissioner of Education and legislature tremendous power in deciding whether Abbott Districts get more money and which programs they will offer. Abbott Districts are those where most of the minority children attend school. The concern with the Supreme Court ruling is that it puts decisions about the education of children, particularly poor children back in the hands of politicians, politicians who come mostly from suburban and rural districts and who do not have much interest in urban, minority and poor children.

This means that we in urban,



Reverend Reginald T. Jackson

minority and poor districts must come together and speak out, register, vote and lobby for our children. If we don't our children will be discarded and their future at greater risk than they have been.

Third is the matter of the New Jersey State Police and profiling. The incident on April 23 on the New Jersey Turnpike, where three African Americans and, an Hispanic, in a van on their way to a basketball camp in North Carolina were stopped, and the three of them shot again raised the issue of minorities being targeted by the state police for stops in expectation of finding drugs. This has gone on for years. The State Police and governor deny that it happens, but we have seen and retired reporters confirm that it does. The Black Ministers Association has gotten the governor to approve cameras in State Police cars, which will monitor both the police and the motorist.

We must and will continue to press this issue because it is wrong and puts our lives at risk. We refuse to be targeted just because we are Black While Driving. These three ought to send a message to us that we who live in the cities, are minorities or poor face some tough times. Therefore we must unite, remain informed and be pro active in our own behalf and that of our children.

Greg O'Quin making a 'Joyful Noyze'

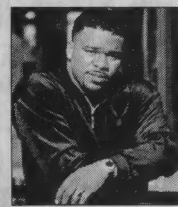
NASHVILLE—With his nine-piece ensemble, *Joyful Noyze*, Greg O'Quin lays down a mesmerizing musical and lyrical montage that goes far beyond a simple collection of songs, with tracks running a gamut from slamming hip-hop and funky, mid-tempo rock, to ballads, praise & worship anthems and traditional, foot-stomping Gospel. Co-produced by Jimmy Moss (Karen Karik's producer), the songs are interspersed with interludes of dramatic dialogue and sound effects, recreating scenarios of the ups, downs, struggles and triumphs of everyday life.

"These are encounters between real people in real-life situations," says Greg. "...the mall, an airport, on a basketball court, cooking in the kitchen, driving on the freeway. The songs and interludes are all taken from my own life and the lives of people I've gotten to know and talk to as we've toured around the country. They're conversations between people and God, as well as person-to-person about God and who He is in their lives." One doesn't have to look far to discover just who the Lord is and has been in Greg's life. It's written into every word and note of *Conversations*. In a year filled with challenges for Greg, the random, senseless murder in 1997 of his cousin, Thomas Wade—formerly a member of *Joyful Noyze*—was his most traumatic moment. And the pressures of keeping a band and vocal ensemble on the road, as well as illnesses among both friends and family, only added to Greg's determination.

Yet in "I Told the Storm," he speaks words of wisdom and encouragement from a heart that's determined to overcome any hardship: Death can't shake me/Job can't make me/Bills can't break



Greg O'Quin 'In Joyful Noyze'



Greg O'Quin

me/Disease can't take me/You can't drown me/My God surrounds me/That's what I told the storm. Think anybody's first thought is to run from a storm, for fear of what it will hit us with," Greg comments. "But I've learned that you can have a very confident conversation with the storm. No matter what you have Christ, and I will still have victory."

The song from which the album's title derives is called "The Conversation." With the instantly memorable, sing-along quality of classic praise & worship, its lyrics are a narrative of discovery and the realization of God as the center of

all Creation. "That's totally autobiographical," Greg admits. "It's not a story, it is a lot of people's story. If I had never been through every situation that I have—good and bad—I'd never be able to know God the way I do now. It was a difficult song to write, because it's honest and self-exposing. But that was the case with the whole record. Before you can really speak to someone's heart, I think they have to know you personally. I feel like I let people in much more deeply than on the first record. This is the album I've always dreamed of making."

Force and Fake sponsors minister training

JAMAICA, NY—At dawn one recent morning, nearly 100 ministers and pastors boarded two buses and headed to Reverend Floyd Flake's church in Queens for a day of lectures, tours and training sessions. One bus left from South Jersey loaded with nearly 50 ministers and another left from Newark with another 50 ministers. The trip to Queens was conceived of and sponsored by U.S. Senator Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ).

Torricelli had raised the idea of hosting a day trip to meet with Reverend Flake's New Jersey ministers during meetings with them across the state. The idea was met with enthusiasm.

Torricelli organized the trip to give New Jersey faith-based organizations the opportunity to learn how to develop similar social service programs for New Jersey.

"Who better to teach New Jersey ministers how to duplicate Reverend Flake's success than the cutting edge leader in faith-based social services, Floyd Flake himself," Torricelli said.

Flake, the former Congressman from Queens, resigned from the House of Representatives to devote all of his energies to running his faith-based social service complex. With an annual budget in excess of \$24 million, and a staff of over 825 employees, Flake's complex is one of the three largest employers in the Borough of Queens. The Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church complex, which employs diverse services as job training, a

federal credit union and a 500 student private school is one ministry.

The tour started in the main chapel of Flake's church and proceeded to the book store, the credit union and then to a meeting with Senator Torricelli and Reverend Flake.

Torricelli addressed the New Jersey delegation first and said, "I know that we in New Jersey want to do everything Floyd Flake has done in Queens. That may not be possible. But if we can each duplicate some small part of what Reverend Flake has done here, we have taken a huge step forward toward providing the services that our citizens need."

"What we have done here in Queens is take control of our lives, take control of our community and take control of our future. What you need to do in New Jersey is take that same control. Don't expect anyone to do for you what you are unwilling to do for yourself," Reverend Flake said.

"What you have in Senator Torricelli is an ally, someone that can point you in the right direction, but he cannot do for you. You must do it for yourself," Flake continued.

Following the meeting, Torricelli and Flake joined the ministers for lunch in the Allen A.M.E. church kitchen. Flake's ministerial dialogue, "What Floyd Flake has done here is an inspiration to us all. In today's political environment the government is no longer in the business of giving a free handout, rather

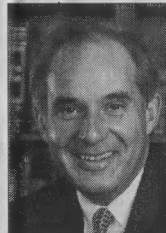
we can provide a hand up. Reverend Flake has taken that hand up and created a unique situation. We can duplicate pieces of what Reverend Flake has done here across New Jersey, but there has to be a will within the community to do so," Torricelli said during lunch.

"I know Senator Torricelli, we worked together for a long time in the House, and now as a Senator you can have no better an advocate he working on your behalf. Use his knowledge, use his skills but know how to take it up into your own communities first and foremost because that is where you minister, and that is where you live," Flake said during the lunch.

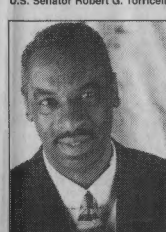
Following lunch the ministers visited the school and community housing project. There they saw how faith-based social services can make a direct impact on the community.

"What we have done is create a mechanism to actively involve our community in the church. The school brings nearly five hundred children into our community. How better to involve a parent in the community than by having them send their pride and joy to us every day," Flake commented.

Among those ministers joining Torricelli and Flake were Reverend Watley of the Saint James A.M.E. Church in Newark, Bishop Cabot of the Plainfield Church of God in Christ and Reverend White of the Woodland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Camden.



U.S. Senator Robert G. Torricelli



Reverend Floyd Flake

The efficacy of ethnic pride

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"We as a people suffer from the cancer of low ethnic pride and self-esteem. This lack undermines our survival and progress. While we reject ourselves, our skin color, our hair texture and our physical features, we foolishly aspire to be accepted and validated outside ourselves and outside of our communities."

But self-esteem begins in the self. Like health and wholeness, truly healthy and integrated self-esteem is internally generated. External forces may impact upon us, like negative stereotypes, lies or racism. But we ourselves. However, what we think of ourselves, feel about ourselves and believe about ourselves determines our fate.

Despite the raised clinched fist and "Black is beautiful" phrases of the late '60's and 70's, we still call ourselves hurtful and unflattering names, abuse each other and are loath to energize ourselves around our mutual self-interest and survival.

These are clear indications of self-hatred and low group esteem.

So, where do these self-destructive, confidence destroying ideas and feelings come from? Africans in America have been taught to think ill of and even hate ourselves. We have been taught on so many levels that we are inferior, not good enough, not talented and not ready for "prime time." Our history in this hemisphere is one of miseducation, rejection, dis-

crimination and dispride. We are, as the great educator Mary McLeod Bethune said, "in bondage to ourselves." How? By altering our individual and collective self-image, we have enough about ourselves to say "la bomb," as the kids say. You have to believe you come from a people that are also great. You have to view African people as competent, qualified and capable of success, no matter what other people say. How do we do that? By studying the accomplishments not just of one or two Black folks but looking at the headway our people made before and after we were brought to these shores. We have to look at our progress in light of the obstacles we've overcome, the resiliency we've demonstrated during the longest we've experienced. The same genes encoded in the genes of our ancestors is in us. The same courageous heart of the Maroons beats in our chests.

We must return to telling our story, passing the exploits of our heroes and sheroes among the people. We must arm ourselves with the sword, shield and buckler of racial pride coupled with an unwavering assurance in our divine birthright, endowments and right to excel. A self-loving and self-actualizing people will never allow themselves to be, or to denigrate. We must tell our story about the Asante resistance to British excursions into Africa. Our children must know about Toussaint L'Ouverture, Nat Turner, Henry Highland Garnet, Henry McNeil Turner, Ida B. Wells and their own grandmothers and their salvation lies within us. Our freedom begins in the laboratory of our minds, in our imagination where we must fashion a new image of ourselves, a new vision of the future and new beliefs about our limitless potential. Pride and believe in ourselves, desire for freedom, the boldness to act, willingness to learn from our mistakes and relentless tenacity will set us free.

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Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROUTE 21 TRIM

Notice is hereby given that the New Jersey Department of Transportation will conduct a public hearing on the Environmental Assessment/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed Rte. 21 roadway and intersection improvement project from Green Street to Pleasant Street including the replacement of N.J. Thruway Bridge #726, all within the City of Newark, Essex County. The public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 20, 1998 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Offices (NJTPA), One Newark Center, 17th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

The purpose of the public hearing is to insure that the public has the opportunity to have their comments, suggestions, and any objections to the project entered into the hearing record. Additionally, the hearing will present the results of cultural resource studies conducted by the Department for this project. Cultural resource studies have identified several historic architectural and archaeological sites in the proposed Route 21 project area that are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Federal Highway Administration and the N.J. Historic Preservation Office both concur that some of the identified cultural resources will be adversely affected by the proposed project. Efforts have been, and will continue to be, made to find prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid or mitigate the adverse effects.

Department representatives will make a presentation of the project details and take public comments for the record. Written statements may be given instead of oral testimony. All such statements must be submitted to the Department of Transportation, Office of Community Relations, Box 600, Trenton, N.J. 08646 by Monday, August 31, 1998, the closing date of the hearing record.

Concurrently with the public hearing, in an adjacent area to the hearing room, an informal information center will be held at which displays and information will be provided. Department representatives will be available at this informal meeting to receive comments and answer questions.

The Environmental Assessment/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation has been printed and distributed for public review at the following locations:

The Offices of the Essex County Executive Director-Hall of Records

City of Newark Department of Engineering
City of Newark Public Library Main Branch and the following library branches: Branch Brook, North End, Roseland and Van Buren

Copies of the environmental document are also available at:

New Jersey Department of Transportation
Bureau of Environmental Services
1035 Parkway Avenue, Box 500
Trenton, N.J. 08625

and,
Federal Highway Administration
840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 310
Trenton, N.J. 08625

Copies will also be available for review at the public hearing.

For further information or if you are physically challenged and require assistance in participating in either the public hearing or the informal information center, please contact Don Bates, NJDOT Office of Community Relations at (609) 520-2121.

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ALL LONG BRANCH HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENTS

Public Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for VARIOUS MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACTS shall be received by the Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch, located at the Garfield Court Administration Building, Long Branch, NJ 07740. The specific contracts, bid due dates and times are as follows:

CONTRACT #1 - Refuse Collection - 9:00 AM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #2 - Elevator Maintenance - 10:00 AM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #3 - Emergency Electric Repairs - 10:30 AM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #4 - Emergency Plumbing Repairs - 11:00 AM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #5 - Emergency Plaster Repairs - 11:30 AM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #6 - Emergency Tile Repairs - 1:00 PM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #7 - Emergency Boiler Repairs - 1:30 PM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #8 - Boiler Cleaning - 2:00 PM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #9 - Boiler Water Treatment - 2:30 PM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #10 - Temperature Controls - 3:00 PM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #11 - Alarm Systems - 3:30 PM - July 28, 1998

CONTRACT #12 - Refrigeration/Stores - 4:00 PM - July 28, 1998

Specifications for the above listed contracts may be picked-up at the office of the Housing Authority beginning Wednesday, July 15, 1998 at 9:00 AM. There is no fee for the specifications; packages shall not be mailed to prospective bidders.

All bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 127 (Public Contracts Alternative Action Statute), and with any and all Federal and New Jersey State Statutes not specified or referenced herein.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality and award a contract as may be deemed in the best interest of the Authority.

David A. Brown, PHM
Executive Director
July 9, 1998

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The successful candidate will manage the preadmission process for residents, assure compliance with state & federal regulations, manage staff's response to & resolve tenant complaints etc. Two years' supervisory experience in building management or a related area & Housing Manager Certification required.

Please send resume & salary requirements to: Luis A. Ochoa, Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 6667, Neptune, NJ 07754-0667. EOE

COMPTROLLER

The City of Passaic Housing Authority seeks individual to oversee financial operations. Responsible for audits, financial reports, HUD financial requirements and supervision of a person staff. Should have HUD accounting experience, computer literacy (knowledge of MAS 90 system a plus), familiarity with Section 8 & Public Housing, and Comprehensive Grant Programs. Salary and benefits \$20,000.

Send resumes to:
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New Jersey Performing Arts Center seeks a creative individual with 2-3 years arts PR experience to manage its busy press office. Duties include writing performance publicity, media contact, interface with theatrical and press agents and some performance-night liaison with reviews. Reports to Asst. VP for Public Relations. Immediate opening. Send resume, cover letter & salary history to Human Resources Manager/JSN, NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

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FREELANCE WRITERS

Freelance writers are needed to cover newsworthy material. Send your resume to City News, Attn: Glenda Mattox, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Experience required. Must have your own transportation.

HELP WANTED

INTERNS

Full-time students with a 2.5 G.P.A. and excellent communications skills who are interested in developing work experience send your resume to: City News, Attn: Jan Johnson, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061 or fax your resume to 908-753-1308. You will have the opportunity to learn hands-on experience in Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, Act 3.0, QuarkXPress, Xerox, faxing, scanning, filing, sorting, making phone calls. Some internships are paid.

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Proofreaders are invited to submit their resume to Jan Johnson at City News, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Experience is required.

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